

HB 3044 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 4/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Updates statute prohibiting carrying of dogs on external part of vehicle, ORS 811.200. Specifies person may not carry dog in truck bed or other external part of vehicle on highway unless in enclosed space or unenclosed space if walls of truck bed are at least 46 inches in height; dog is cross tethered to vehicle; or dog is placed in container or cage that is secured to vehicle. Applies to conduct on or after effective date of Act.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Exempts person operating a registered farm vehicle.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon is considered a leader among states in protecting animals. In 2013, Senate Bill 6 enhanced penalties against those who commit animal abuse or neglect and provided licensing and oversight of animal care entities. The measure included findings that, "Animals are sentient beings capable of experiencing pain, stress and fear; Animals should be cared for in ways that minimize pain, stress, fear and suffering." Oregon has several statutes that provide the basic parameters for animal care and establish crimes for failure to meet animal care standards, abuse or neglect, including ORS 811.200, which prohibits carrying a dog on the external part of a vehicle when driving on the highway without protecting the dog from falling from the vehicle.

House Bill 3044 would modify ORS 811.200 to specify that the prohibition includes carrying a dog in a truck bed. The measure would also specify that a dog must be transported in an enclosed space, unless protected from being thrown, falling or jumping from the vehicle by securing the dog in a truck bed with walls that are 46 inches or taller; cross tethering the dog to the vehicle; or placing the dog in a container or cage that is secured to the vehicle.